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A vignette study

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Qualitative research on the potentials for artificial intelligence in general practice — a vignette study

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Introduction: The development of digital technology has undergone rapid progress in recent years. Particularly, the advancement in digital computing power and the rising access to big amounts of data has opened for development and use of artificial intelligence (AI). Consequently, the Danish government presented a national strategy on the development of AI in a number of prioritized areas in the spring of 2019. The Danish health care system is among these prioritised areas.

As a result, Center for General Practice at Aalborg University has, in cooperation with MedCom, launched an interdisciplinary research study to explore the possibilities for AI in general practice.

Objective: As part of the preliminary preparation for the research study, a qualitative study using vignettes, has been initiated to explore perspectives on AI in general practice among patients and general practitioners (GPs).

vi·gnette

/vin'yet/ 

noun

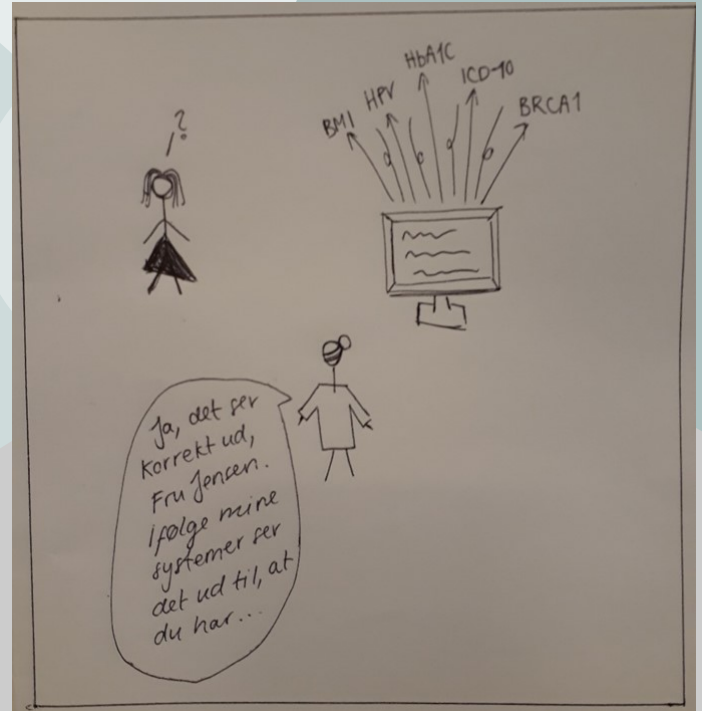
1. a brief evocative description, account, or episode.
2. a small illustration or portrait photograph that fades into its background without a definite border.

verb

1. portray (someone) in the style of a vignette.

Methods: Vignettes are cases developed to clarify attitudinal differences among participants—in this case, among patients and GPs.

The study's vignettes were classified into three main themes; 1) understanding of data and AI, 2) the use of health data, and 3) the use of AI in general practice.



A pilot study to test the chosen themes, the interview guide and the vignettes was completed with four participants. Nine patients and nine GPs participated in the study. Inclusion criteria for patients comprised of patients being over 18 years old and affiliated a general practice. Inclusion criteria for GPs comprised of every participant to be fully-qualified GPs. Patients were recruited through social media and GPs were recruited through email.

Perspectives: It is desired and expected that the study will result in the collection of perspectives from patients and GPs that will commence the development of the future use of AI in general practice.